



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ASHLEY LAMB-SINCLAIR NAMED 2016 KENTUCKY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – An English and creative writing teacher in the Oldham County school district, Ashley Lamb-Sinclair, is the 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education made the announcement today at a ceremony held at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. Governor Steve Beshear; Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Thomas O. Zawacki; Commissioner of Education Stephen L. Pruitt; and Sam Mitchell, senior vice president of Ashland and president of Valvoline were on hand to make the presentation.

Joshua DeWar, a 2nd-grade teacher at Engelhard Elementary in Jefferson County, is the 2016 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Karen Mallonee, a world language/Spanish teacher at College View Middle School in Daviess County, is the 2016 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

The three joined 21 other teachers from across the state honored with 2016 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards.

Gov. Steve Beshear praised all of the achievement winners for their dedication, innovation, enthusiasm and ability.

“Jane and I would personally like to thank all the teachers recognized this year at the Teacher of the Year ceremony, and we congratulate this year’s winner for setting the bar on excellence in education,” Gov. Steve Beshear said. “Our teachers are a major part of Kentucky’s current momentum. They continue to partner with us as we improve our education programs that are preparing our young people for the increasingly high-tech jobs of the 21st century, and making Kentucky more competitive as companies seek out highly skilled, capable employees. Our future looks bright as we continue to raise our education standards and rankings, and we have our teachers to thank for our ongoing success.”

“Our most important assets in education are the teachers in the classrooms. These teachers honored here today represent the best of the best in Kentucky,” said Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen L. Pruitt. “Even with tight resources and a continual push to make sure all students are ready for college and career, Kentucky’s teachers are

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proving high student achievement is possible.”

DeWar and Mallonee received \$3,000 each and a customized, art-glass vase from Ashland Inc., while Lamb-Sinclair received \$10,000 and a commemorative crystal-glass bowl. In addition, the Kentucky Department of Education will provide a sabbatical or suitable alternative for Lamb-Sinclair, who also will represent the state in the 2016 National Teacher of the Year competition. The remaining 21 winners each received \$500 cash awards. All 24 teachers received framed certificates and were further recognized at a luncheon following the ceremony.

“This marks the 15th year that Ashland and the Kentucky Department of Education have joined together to recognize some of the Commonwealth's top educators. When you think about the impact teachers have upon their students, they truly deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their efforts,” said Sam Mitchell, senior vice president of Ashland and president of Valvoline.

Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education co-sponsor the Kentucky Teacher Achievement Awards. Applications for the program were distributed across the state, and the first tier of the selection process was completed in August, with 24 teachers selected as 2016 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award winners.

Nine top scorers – each from the elementary, middle and high school levels – were selected, and teams of educators visited their classrooms to view them at work and to conduct personal interviews. From those nine, three were selected as 2016 Kentucky Teachers of the Year. The selection of the overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year was based on the compilation of scores from all phases of the judging.

Ashland has recognized outstanding Kentucky teachers with its Teacher Achievement Awards since 1988. Approximately \$727,000 has been awarded to more than 500 teachers in grades K to 12.

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Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) is a global leader in providing specialty chemical solutions to customers in a wide range of consumer and industrial markets, including architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care and pharmaceutical. Through our three business units – Ashland Specialty Ingredients, Ashland Performance Materials and Valvoline – we use good chemistry to make great things happen for customers in more than 100 countries. Visit ashland.com to learn more.

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TEACHER OF THE YEAR BIOGRAPHIES

Ashley Lamb-Sinclair, 2016 Kentucky High School Teacher of the Year and 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year North Oldham High School, Oldham Co. Schools, Goshen

With nine years in the teaching profession, Ashley Lamb-Sinclair has taught English and creative writing at North Oldham High School for three years. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Kentucky and has achieved National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification. Lamb-Sinclair is an Innovative Teacher Leader; an Instructional Design cohort leader; a Connect Program developer; and an Intervention Committee member. She works with Sarabande Books in an outreach that involves writing and assists with the Louisville Literary Arts Writers' Block Conference. Her professional affiliations include the English Speaking Union, National Education Association and the National Council for Teachers of English.

Joshua J. DeWar, 2016 Elementary Teacher of the Year Engelhard Elementary, Jefferson Co. Schools, Louisville

Joshua J. DeWar has begun his fourth year of teaching second-grade students at Engelhard Elementary in Louisville. DeWar earned a bachelor's degree at Wisconsin's Ripon College; master's degrees at Bowling Green State University and the University of Louisville; and a doctorate at Marian University, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He chairs his school's Primary Program Review Committee and is a member of the Professional Growth and Effectiveness Implementation Team. DeWar also serves as a mentor/supervisor of student teachers and as a community clean-up volunteer. His professional affiliations include the Kentucky and National Education Associations and the Jefferson County Teachers Association.

Karen J. Mallonee, 2016 Middle School Teacher of the Year College View Middle School, Daviess County, Owensboro

With 37 years of teaching experience, Karen J. Mallonee has taught world languages-Spanish courses to sixth- through eighth-grade students at College View Middle School for 18 years. Mallonee earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Western Maryland College. She participates in Leader in Me staff development initiatives and serves as a supervising/cooperative teacher and classroom mentor for student-teacher candidates and potential candidates. Mallonee also serves on the school's Faculty Council and as a Spanish Club sponsor. She received a 2015 College View Middle School Teacher of the Award, and her professional affiliations include the Daviess County, Kentucky and National Education Associations.

2016 Ashland Teacher Achievement Award Winners

Gina Beasley, Brooks Elementary, Bullitt County

Uealajeane Crawford, Wyan-Pine Grove Elementary, Laurel County

Joshua DeWar, Engelhard Elementary, Jefferson County

Sarah Lockard, A.C. Glasscock Elementary, Marion County

Emily Lomax, Foster Traditional Academy, Jefferson County

Michelle McCloughan, T.C. Cherry Elementary, Bowling Green Independent

Julie Moore, Wellington Elementary, Fayette County

Marcia Ward, A.B. Combs Elementary, Perry County

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Tonya Artman, Crosby Middle, Jefferson County

Karen Mallonee, College View Middle, Daviess County

Natalie McCutchen, Franklin-Simpson Middle, Simpson County

Meredith Patton, Bullitt Lick Middle, Bullitt County

Rick Rafferty, Highlands Middle, Fort Thomas Independent

Corbin Snardon, Paducah Middle, Paducah Independent

Carmen Thompson, Elkhorn Middle, Franklin County

Lee Campbell, Knox Central High, Knox County

Cathy Conley, Knott County Central High, Knott County

Terrilyn Fleming, Central High Magnet Career Academy, Jefferson County

Ashley Lamb-Sinclair, North Oldham High, Oldham County

Tracy Lambert, Lafayette High, Fayette County

Carlos Pena-Rivera, Henry Clay High, Fayette County

Amanda Ratliff, Johnson Central High, Johnson County

Pennye Rogers, Todd County Central High, Todd County

J. Wes York, Caldwell County High, Caldwell County

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